

FACT SHEET



Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site Bonne Terre, Missouri

February 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has selected the preferred remedy for the Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site in Bonne Terre, Missouri, and has finalized an Action Memo explaining the decision.

On June 29, 1998, EPA released the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), which described conditions at the site and evaluated different removal action options. The EE/CA was available for public comment for more than 30 days following its release. Because of comments, two additional alternatives were analyzed and the EE/CA was amended. A second public comment period was opened for an additional 30 days ending October 28. EPA has now selected a removal action for implementation at the site.

PLANNED ACTIONS

- **Chat Pile and Tailings Field Area**

The selected alternative for the Chat Pile and adjacent Tailings Field Area is described in the EE/CA and involves significant regrading of the pile. The alternative will reduce the height of the pile from approximately 965 feet to 900 feet. Chat derived from lowering the pile height and reshaping the slopes will be placed on the adjacent tailings field to the north. Lowering the chat pile will not only reduce its visual impact, but will also leave a plateau on top of the pile that could provide a location for potential development, such as a city recreational area. The flat, regraded areas will be covered with 8 inches of topsoil and vegetation, the sides would be covered with rock.

- **East Tailings Area**

The selected alternative for the East Tailings Area includes reducing the steep ridge in the middle of the area. Buttrussing the existing slope with coarse tailings will also help stabilize the dikes along the east side of the East Tailings Area. Development is likely in the southern portion of the area. Grading plans will be coordinated with future use of the property. Current drag racing on the tailings flats could continue if dust is controlled by water application prior to racing activities.

- **Intermediate Tailings/Chat**

This area contains 23 acres of exposed tailings. Active efforts to develop this area are underway by the owner. The steep bluff slope on the eastern edge of the site near new Highway 67 will be reduced by excavating material from the top of the bluff and placing it at or beyond the toe. Placement of vegetation or rock protection on the slope would be coordinated with the owners with consideration of appearance and long term maintenance. The grading of this slope would also be coordinated with the owners/developers to fit in with overall site development plans.

- **Additional Plans**

Stabilization will be accomplished with either vegetation or pavement for all exposed surface areas except the rocky slopes. Fertilization will continue annually, with the application rate adjusted as needed. To further promote development of an organic layer, the grass will be mowed regularly.

Administrative controls for the above areas would include some or all of the following actions: posting signs on property to prevent trespassing and material removal, allowing only authorized personnel and vehicles to access the property by constructing gates on property roads, and implementing deed restrictions or zoning.

BACKGROUND

The Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site is located in an area known as the Old Lead Belt. Ownership of the site is mostly private, and portions are developed commercially under numerous owners. It is surrounded on the west and south by developed portions of the city of Bonne Terre, both residential and commercial. The EPA has determined that a removal action is required for this area because the lead in the piles presents a threat of exposure to people in the area. There is a potential for the lead-contaminated particles to be transferred offsite by wind and storm water runoff. Also, the tailings at or near the surface may migrate to surface water.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The administrative record for the Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site are available for review at the Mineral Area College, 5270 Flat River Road, Park Hills, Missouri, or at the EPA Region 7 Docket Room, 726 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, Kansas.

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site please call:

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(913) 551-7003 or toll-free at 1-800-223-0425.